Bank Name	March, 2002	March, 2003
United Bank of India	2525	3472
Vijaya Bank	2491	3521
State Bank of India	45073	56237
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	1578	1992
State Bank of Hyderabad	2567	3541
State Bank of Indore	1457	1961
State Bank of Mysore	1467	1856
State Bank of Patiala	2981	4196
State Bank of Saurashtra	961	1273
State Bank of Travancore	2035	3074
GRAND TOTAL:	175954	215391

Income Tax Payers and Pan Allotments

1458. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of persons assessed to Income Tax as of the last financial year all over the country;

(b) what is the increase in percentage during the current year;

(c) how many PAN cards have been issued so far in the country;

(d) what is the total number of pending applications for PAN all over the country; and

(e) what steps are being taken to speed up the the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The total number of assessees as on 31st March" 03 all over the country was 3,00,19,215.

(b) During the current financial year, 5,71,626 assessees have been added upto 31st October' 03. The percentage increase in the number of assessees over the last financial year can be worked out only after close of the current financial year.

(c) The Income Tax Department has allotted PAN to 3.11 crore persons upto 30th November' 03 out of which 2.93 crore PAN cards have been issued. The issuance of PAN cards for the balance is in progress.

(d) A total number of 5.06 lakh applications for PAN are pending as on date.

(e) From 1st July, 2003, Income Tax Department has outsourced a part of business processes of PAN to UTI Investors Service Limited. Under the new procedure, PAN cards are required to be despatched to the applicant within 10 to 15 working days.

Policy changes in joint venture deals

1459. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering to change the policy governing the exit of a foreign company from a joint venture with its Indian partner and setting up of a new venture by the overseas partner;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed changes; and

(c) the reasons for bringing such changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) FDI policy is reviewed on an on-going basis. There is no proposal pending for decision for changes in Guidelines pertaining to approval of foreignAechnical collaborations under the automatic route with previous ventures/tie-up in India.

Repeal of obsolete laws by SEBI

1460. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SEBI is thinking of repealing all obsolete laws to ensure that regulations are responsive to the changes in the market; and

(b) if so, the details of the laws that are being proposed to be repealed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) SEBI from time to time reviews regulations to make them more responsive to the changes